

FACT SHEET

PROJECT TITLE

Jefferson Park Site Plan

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks) has been working with the Beacon Hill community, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), and other stakeholders to identify park features that should be replaced, upgraded, or added to Jefferson Park. Information from this EIS process will assist Parks in finalizing the improvements to be incorporated into the Jefferson Park Site Plan. The project area that is being considered is approximately 50 acres and includes the North and South Reservoirs owned and operated by SPU. Under a separate process, SPU made plans to relocate water storage operations from the North Reservoir to the South Reservoir. To protect water quality, a floating cover ~~will~~was to be installed on the South Reservoir, as part of a city-wide program identified in SPU's Water Supply Plan Update. SPU's plans to retire the North Reservoir provided the opportunity to coordinate planning efforts to convert the area of the North Reservoir for public park use. Development of the Jefferson Park Site Plan also revived discussion of expanded park use in the South Reservoir area. Given that the South Reservoir will be used for water storage operations, the area could only be made possible for expanded park use if a buried reservoir (often called a "hard lid") could be constructed. At this time, a buried South Reservoir is not included in SPU's capital construction program. Subsequent to the release of the Draft EIS, SPU, under the direction of the Mayor, developed an initiative to reconstruct buried reservoirs at all reservoirs in the City formerly planned for floating covers. Council approval of the Mayor's Plan will be required prior to inclusion in the City's Capital Improvement Program. ~~However, the Jefferson Park Site Plan proposes~~ Alternative B in this EIS analyzes a concept for park use in the event a buried reservoir structure could be constructed by SPU at some point in the future.

For purposes of this EIS analysis, proposed projects being considered by Parks have been grouped into two alternatives. They have been identified in terms of phasing – how quickly they could be implemented. Decision makers could, however, select to move those projects identified in the long-range category on a faster schedule or choose to defer those in the interim category or choose not to implement projects in either category.

In addition to a No-Action Alternative, the two project alternatives evaluated in this EIS are described generally as follows:

Alternative A – The Interim Plan includes projects which are programmed, planned, or most likely to be initiated within the near term. In addition to numerous improvements to existing fields and facilities within Jefferson Park, projects described in this alternative include decommissioning of SPU's North Reservoir to create a large, multi-use open space or meadow area, demolition of the existing community center, construction of a new Community Center Activities Building, and construction of a new gymnasium.

Alternative B -The Long-range Plan includes all project elements included in the Interim Plan but also includes those site plan elements or options where there is less certainty about their funding potential or that are envisioned for the more distant future. The elements or options in this alternative include installation of sports fields in the location of the South Reservoir in the event it becomes available for park use, construction of a second gymnasium, and construction of a new pedestrian overpass across South Spokane Street at approximately 17th Avenue South.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project area is bounded on the north by South Spokane Street, on the west by 15th and 16th Avenues South; on the east by Beacon Avenue South, and on the south by Asa Mercer Middle School and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (Figure 1-1). The project area does not include the golf facilities operated by Seattle Golf (Municipal Golf of Seattle): the 9-hole course, golf clubhouse, golf maintenance facility, and the driving range.

PROPONENT

Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation
100 Dexter Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98109

LEAD AGENCY

Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation
100 Dexter Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98109

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL

Kenneth R. Bounds, Superintendent
Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation
100 Dexter Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98109

CONTACT PERSON

Don Bullard, Project Manager
Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation
800 Maynard Avenue South, Third Floor
Seattle, WA 98134-1336
Phone: (206) 684-7158
FAX: (206) 233-3949
Email: don.bullard@ci.seattle.wa.us

PERMITS AND APPROVALS REQUIRED

The following permits and approvals may be required for the various alternatives being considered:

State:

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction Permit (Washington State Department of Ecology)

Local:

Building Permit
Grade and Fill Permit
Demolition Permit
Utility Permits
Street Use Permit
Skybridge Permit
Noise Variance

AUTHORS AND PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTORS

Adolfson Associates, Inc.
5309 Shilshole Avenue NW
Seattle, WA 98107
(206) 789-9658

The Portico Group
217 Pine Street, Second Floor
Seattle, WA 98101-1500

Heffron Transportation, Inc.
6544 NE 61st Street
Seattle, WA 98115

Mimi Sheridan A.I.C.P.
3630 37th Avenue West
Seattle, WA 98199

DATE OF ~~DEIS~~ FINAL EIS ISSUE

June 28, 2002

~~DEIS COMMENT PERIOD ENDS~~

~~June 7, 2002~~

ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

In accordance with WAC 197.11.060(5) and the City of Seattle Environmental Policies and Procedures SMC 25.05, the City of Seattle will conduct additional environmental review under SEPA as appropriate for actions or changes to the proposals not covered under the scope of this EIS. Generally, Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks) will be the lead agency for any additional environmental review required for actions related to Parks' properties; similarly, Seattle

Public Utilities (SPU) will be the lead agency responsible for any additional environmental review required for actions related to SPU properties.

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Copies of this document have been printed and are available for public distribution for a fee of \$5.00. Contact Don Bullard, Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation, 800 Maynard Avenue South, Third Floor, Seattle, WA 98134-1336, (206) 684-7158; email: don.bullard@ci.seattle.wa.us. Copies of this document may also be viewed on Park's website at <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/parkspaces/jeffparksiteplan.htm>.